

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /068 W

-----110622Z 117688 /13

R 101505Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6084

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0749

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: LABOR PARTY AGAIN REJECTS CABINET COUNCIL

REF: CAPE TOWN 380

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING MAY 4 MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER OF COLORED AFFAIRS HENNIE SMIT AND LEADERS OF COLORED LABOR PARTY, LOCAL PRESS HAS SPECULATED THAT LABOR PARTY MAY RECONSIDER ITS REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S CABINET COUNCIL. LABOR PARTY LEADER SONNY LEON SAID PRIVATELY THAT POLICY REMAINS THE SAME BUT SAG HAS BEEN CHALLENGED TO SPELL OUT ITS POLICY IN MORE DETAIL. END SUMMARY.

1. LEON AND LABOR PARTY DEPUTY LEADER DAVID CURRY TOLD CONGEN OFF THAT SMIT REQUESTED MAY 4 MEETING AT WHICH HE MADE STRONG PITCH FOR LABOR PARTY, WHICH IS MAJORITY PARTY IN COLORED REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL, TO RECONSIDER ITS BOYCOTT OF PM'S JOINT CABINET COUNCIL (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO LEON, SMIT RECITED USUAL ARGUEMENTS, SAYING PARTICIPATION WOULD GIVE COLOREDS A VOICE AT HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT.

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2. LEON SAID HE TOLD SMIT THAT SAG MUST SPELL OUT IN WRITING WHAT POWERS AND FUNCTIONS COUNCIL WOULD HAVE AND HOW IT WOULD ADVANCE BEYOND PRESENT "CONSULTATIVE" ROLE IN WHICH ALL DECISION-MAKING POWER RETAINED BY WHITES. LEON SAID SAG WOULD ALSO HAVE TO MAKE PROVISION FOR PARTICIPATION ON COUNCIL BY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF URBAN BLACKS BEFORE

LABOR PARTY COULD ACCEPT IT. LEON AND SMIT AGREED THAT SAG
WOULD PREPARE MEMORANDUM ON COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION AND FUNCTIONS.
THE MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT A SECOND MEETING ON MAY 25.
LEON SAID HE MADE CLEAR THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE CABINET
COUNCIL WOULD REQUIRE THAT SAG MEET THE PARTY'S CONDITIONS
AND THET IT BE APPROVED BY PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE.

3. WHILE SAG WOULD OBVIOUSLY LIKE TO CO-OPT LABOR PARTY AS
MAJORITY PARTY IN CRC, IT IS UNLIKELY TO MEET CONDITIONS LAID
DOWN BY PARTY LEADERS. PROSPECTS IS FOR CONTINUED STALEMATE.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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